The main object of the enquiry was to devise such measures as would ensure to the Jenmis a speedy method of recovering their *michavaram* and other dues, but the Bill did not seek to afford any adequate relief in that direction. The community, therefore, had begun to feel whether they would not have been better in their position such as it was before the creation of the Committee. In dealing with the above said portion of the Report, the Committee had merely wasted time and public money with no good either to the people or to the Government.

Then again, the enquiries conducted by the Committee in the different places were not fair to the Jenmis. In some cases, statements were extorted from witnesses by coercion and undue influence. The Report did not contain anything in favour of the Jenmis. Even the behaviour of the Committee towards the Jenmi witnesses was not as it ought to have been. The Report also contained a stigma on the judicial act of the one Nambudiri judge in Travancore who, at one time, happened to preside over the High Court. The Member said that the Government should take notice of the waste of time entailed in the preparation of such a Report. It was with a view to minimise litigation between Jenmis and Kudiyans that a revised Bill was wished for. The Bill did not, however, afford a satisfactory solution of that question. It would be more appropriate to designate the Bill as the *Kanapattom* Bill. In conclusion, he requested that the Government should make careful investigation as to the manner in which the Committee conducted their enquiries and examination of witnesses, and find out a simple remedy for the redress of the long-standing grievances of the community.

Dewan's reply.—The Government will gladly consider the objections and suggestions which the Jenmis and Kudiyans may have to make in regard to the Draft Bill, and any modifications that may be found necessary will be made therein; and the Bill, in the form in which it is to be introduced into the Legislative Council, will again be published in the Gazette prior to its introduction.

In regard to what the Member has said about the Report, I would at once say that the opinions contained in the Report are *not* the opinions of the Government. What was published in the Gazette is the Report of the Committee and it must be taken to represent the individual opinions of the President or the Members of the Committee over whose signature the Report or any portion of it has appeared. The facts stated in the Report are not the views of the Government, nor will they bind the Government in any way. I cannot say that I have critically gone through the entire Report, as the necessity for a careful study of the details has not yet arisen. That will be done when the Draft Bill, with the suggestions of the public, is taken up for consideration. In terms of what the Member said just now about certain objectionable portions in the Report, some Namburi gentlemen have also spoken to me personally. A few petitions have also been received on the same subject from certain members of the community. If, as is urged, the Report in any portion contains statements that go to affect the name and fame of either the Jenmis or the Kudiyans, the Government do not share the Committee's views in that respect. So far as the Government are concerned, they will consider and act on those portions of the Report only which have any connection with the modifications, which have been proposed or are necessary in the present law governing the relations between the Jenmis and the Kudiyans.

32. Desirability of expunging Chapter I from the Report of the Jenmi Kudiyan Committee.

Mr. Akkiraman Maheswaran Bhattathiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Divison) said that he completely agreed in the views expressed by the previous speaker on the undesirability of inserting certain statements in the Report, which were derogatory to the Jenmis as a class. The Member pointed out that the opinion expressed by the Committee on the origin, etc., of Jenmis was not based on any evidence collected in the course of the Committee's enquries and that the Report and the Draft Bill appeared to be highly injurious to the reputation of the Jenmis. He, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to examine, peruse and consider very carefully the whole records connected with the question and that, if it

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appeared to them that the Bill was not prepared in accordance with the directions or intentions of the Government and on the basis of the depositions taken during the enquiry, then a Special Officer, who was impartial, should be appointed to examine the records and prepare a fresh Report and Draft Bill.

Mr. Narayanan Tuppan Namburipad (Member, Jenmi, Kottayam Division) said that he completely concurred in the views expressed by the previous speakers and prayed that the Government might be pleased to consider the whole question carefully.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly was adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

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